



Advocacy Day Briefing Packet

Thank you for attending the Network for Youth Success' Power of 3:00 Advocacy Day on January 22, 2020 in Albany, NY! Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for afterschool staff, students, parents, and advocates to come together and share the needs and impacts of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs with elected officials. This briefing packet will provide all attendees with the information needed to make this a successful day.

ADVOCACY DAY GOALS

1. Educate state legislators and their staff on the benefits of high-quality afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs.
2. Share the budget priorities of the Network with legislators and staff.
3. Leverage the collective voices of students, parents, staff, and advocates so that our elected officials understand the importance of these programs.

LOGISTICS

New York State Capitol, Albany, NY
Legislative Office Building (LOB) - 198 State Street, Albany, NY 12210
3rd Floor Terrace

Agenda:

- 9:30am – Registration begins, coffee and bagels provided.
- 10:00am: Kick-off event to open 2020 Advocacy Day. Attendees will connect with their groups and group leaders to prep for the full day of meetings. We will hear brief remarks and take a group photo.
- 11:00 am – 3:30 pm: Meetings with legislators and staff. Meetings will be held in the LOB or the Capitol. Your group leader will have the schedule with the room locations.
- ***2:30 pm – 3:00 pm: Afterschool Rally at the Million Dollar Staircase***

Lunch: Lunch will be on your own. Each group will have time set aside within their schedules to eat lunch. Lunch options are available in the Empire State Plaza Concourse, located just outside the security checkpoint between the LOB and the Capitol. There is also a Dunkin Donuts within the Capitol if you prefer not go to through security.

Parking: If you are staying in a downtown Albany hotel, we would recommend you leave your car at the hotel. If you are driving in the morning of, parking is available in the Visitor's Lot in the Empire State Plaza for a fee (please refer to map). We strongly encourage you to arrive early to ensure parking in the Visitor's Lot. Directions and parking information can be found here: <http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/advocacy-day>

Entrance and Security: If you are walking from a downtown hotel or getting dropped off by a cab, we would suggest entering through the LOB entrance on State Street or the Capitol entrance on State Street. If you are parking in the Visitor Parking Lot, take the elevator to the Concourse level, make a right, and you will go through security at the entrance to the LOB/Capitol.

In order to gain access to the State Capitol or LOB you will have to go through security. You will be required to take off your coat, remove any electronics, bags and purses will be scanned, and you will have to walk through a metal detector. Once you have gone through security we



encourage you to stay within the State Capitol or LOB. If you need to go outside for any reason, you will need to go back through security (lines can be very long at certain times during the day).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you run into any problems, below are cell phone numbers for key staff from the Network for Youth Success:

Trudy Morgan: 929-241-7756
Alli Lidie: 703-967-2808

MEETINGS

Meetings will be held predominantly in the LOB. There will be some meetings that will be held in the Capitol, but for the most part, the majority of legislative office are located in the LOB. Please be prepared to do a lot of walking and wear comfortable shoes. At times throughout the day, elevators in the LOB can become crowded. Please try to give yourselves enough time to get to meetings.

Off the Floor: There are times when an elected official is not available to meet in their office and therefore we will need to pull them off the Assembly or Senate floor. When pulling a member off the floor, you need to first go to the appropriate chamber, either the Assembly or the Senate, write the member's name on the back of your business card, and hand your business card to the sergeant-at-arms notifying them of who you would like speak with. "Off the Floor" meetings are meant to be quick on the go conversations, which actually take place in the space outside of the legislative conference rooms, which will be very busy and loud. Please aim to keep the conversation short, and to the core points of your message. Also, remember to ask them who you should follow up with in their office to email the materials, etc.

NOTE: The Network for Youth Success' Advocacy Day consists of lobbying activities. The amount of permissible lobbying varies for organizations. Please inquire with your legal team and [the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics](#) if you have any questions.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

AFTERSCHOOL UPLIFTS NEW YORK.

The Network for Youth Success proposes a holistic agenda to strengthen the afterschool system towards universal access by 1) increasing investments in expanded learning opportunities, 2) safeguarding current funds for afterschool programs, and 3) providing equitable support for professional development and quality standards for all state-funded grantees.

1a. Increasing investments in expanded learning opportunities: Invest an additional \$15.2 million in the Empire State After-School Program and an additional \$5.12 million in the Advantage After School Program.

- This would increase the per student rate to \$2,320 while continuing to serve the same number of students. *Serving the same number of students is critical.*
- This would also account for the minimum wage increase while holding everything else constant.



- Program costs ranges from just under \$3,000 in Buffalo to \$6,000 in NYC. Most of that amount already goes to paying salaries, before the upcoming increase in minimum wage.
- Programs continue to have a difficult time both increasing salaries and paying for supplies/activities that not only support programs, but make those programs high quality.

1b. Increasing investments in expanded learning opportunities: Dedicate at least 25% of revenue gained from legalization of adult use cannabis to afterschool and summer programs, if legalization occurs.

- Legalization of adult use cannabis must include strategies to prevent children and youth from partaking in marijuana use.
- Research shows that afterschool programs decrease drug abuse and misuse: They are the ideal venue to not only educate children and youth about the dangers of drug abuse, but (perhaps more importantly) to provide and strengthen the Protective Factors that have been shown to decrease drug use.
- Other states have dedicated revenue to afterschool programs, including Alaska, which dedicated 12.5% of revenue.
- No program would be required to accept funding from this funding stream should it be included in the final budget.

2. Safeguard funding for existing state grantees: Baseline \$22.3 million for Advantage, and extend funding for the \$10.7 million minimum wage increase through FY23-24. Support the \$10 million addition proposed to the Empire State After-School Program.

- Funding for the Advantage program has been cut and restored annually for the last 9 years.
- ESD/SVP funds many Extended School Day programs that keep youth safe and provide enrichment outside of the traditional school day.
- YDP allows counties to determine what types of programming will best meet their local needs, and many fund afterschool and summer programs.
- The \$10 million proposed addition for the Empire State After-School Program in the Executive Budget will support additional students.

3. Ensure equitable support for professional development and quality standards for all state-funded grantees: Invest an additional \$1.8 million in the Educational Incentive Program (EIP) for total funding of \$7 million, and direct \$5 million in new funding towards three new Technical Assistance Centers to support all state-funded afterschool and summer grantees.

- EIP provides scholarships to assist with credentialing activities, college credit-bearing coursework, and non-credit bearing trainings. EIP funds were depleted at the end of September, leading to a waitlist of applications totaling \$250,000 that would have been eligible to receive a scholarship if additional funding was available.
- TACs could organize convenings for networking and professional development, provide resources, phone and on-site technical assistance, and help state funded grantees with compliance.

TALKING POINTS

- Afterschool and summer programs **keep kids safe** after the traditional school day and school year end.
 - Rates of violent juvenile crime, and juveniles falling victim to crime are highest between the hours of 3pm and 6pm - afterschool programs keep children safe.
 - Kids who are in an afterschool and summer programs are less likely to engage in criminal activity, including substance abuse.
 - Participation in afterschool programs is proven to prevent teenage pregnancy.



- Afterschool and summer programs **support working families.**
 - Afterschool and summer programs help working families balance work and family life.
 - Afterschool and summer programs enable parents and guardians to stay focused at work.
 - A NYC study showed that 73% parents missed less work because of afterschool programs.
- Afterschool and summer programs lead to **academic success.**
 - Regular attendance in a high-quality afterschool program is linked to higher scores on standardized tests.
 - Consistent participation in a summer program can combat summer learning loss and increase academic learning during the school year.
 - Afterschool programs create a new social network for students, making students want to spend more time in school with their peers.
 - Afterschool and summer programs that promote social-emotional learning (music, art, theater, cultural awareness, conflict resolution, etc.) create higher academic and career aspirations for youth.



Sample Script for Meetings With Legislators/Staff:

Group Leader: We are meeting with you today to share our passion for afterschool, summer, and expanded learning and why New York State needs to prioritize funding for these high-quality programs. High-quality afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs keep kids safe after the traditional school day ends, help working families, and support academic achievement. I'd like to introduce you to everyone here with me today. *<Introductions, Name, Title, Organization>*

Group Leader: What experience have you had with afterschool or summer programs?
<Allow person to respond, and tailor messages below to build on their experiences or fill in gaps in their knowledge>

Program Providers: *Take turns sharing your story in 2 minutes or less. Talk about your program and how it's supporting students as well as the community at-large. Share success stories and challenges you are facing (fiscal, not enough slots available/waiting list, etc.). If possible, invite the representative to join you later for a visit to your program.*

Group Leader: As you have heard, these programs are making an incredible difference for youth, families, and communities in New York. This year, we are asking New York State to:

- Maintain the \$10 million increase to the Empire State After-School Program and add an additional **\$15.2 million** to increase the per student rate to \$2,320, and invest an **additional \$5.12 million** in the Advantage After School Program to raise the per student rate to \$2,320. Also, dedicate **at least 25% of revenue gained** from legalization of adult use cannabis to afterschool and summer programs, if legalization occurs.
- Safeguard funding for existing state grantees by baselining \$33 million for Advantage After School, including the \$10.7 million minimum wage increase through FY23-24, and protect the \$24.3 million for the Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (ESD/SVP) program and the \$15.6 million for the Youth Development Program (YDP).
- Ensure equitable support for professional development and quality standards for all state-funded grantees by investing an additional **\$1.8 million** in the Educational Incentive Program (EIP) for a **total funding of \$7 million**, and directing **\$5 million** in new funding towards three new Technical Assistance Centers to support all state-funded afterschool and summer grantees.

We've enclosed a one-pager with a breakdown of our budget asks as well as the other budget asks our network is carrying to support expanded learning opportunities.

Group Leader: Thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with us. We have really enjoyed spending time with you sharing why afterschool, summer, and expanded learning opportunities are important to New York. Can we count on your support this year?

**Don't forget to take pictures at the close of your meetings if you meet with an elected official!*